Press&Dakotan DAILY DOSE

Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



Can The Summit League Tournament Get Even Bigger? Sure It Can BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK

james.cimburek@yankton.net

The Summit League Basketball Tournament has had a great run in Sioux Falls. This year's was the best to

The 2013 edition saw records set for men's (23,710), women's (21,158) and total (44,868) attendance, as well as for the women's championship (6,153).

But, believe it or not, it could get bigger. Over 2,500 all-session tickets have already been sold for the 2014 championships, the final one that will be held at Sioux Falls Arena.

Those numbers have been aided by great runs by South Dakota State. This year's crowds were also added to by the addition of the University of South Dakota to the festivities, including the women's team advancing to

In 2015 the championships move next door to the Denny Sanford Premier Center, a facility that holds nearly twice as many fans for basketball (12,000).

The crowds at the arena, the demand for tickets and the amount of interest are at all-time highs. Observers across the country are taking notice of what is happening at our premier event," said Summit League commissioner Tom Douple in a release on Wednesday. "That resonates across our league and provides a tremendous boost to our brand of basketball."

And that "brand" is looking better and better each year.

Beckmann Breaks 1,000-Point Barrier

Bloomfield, Neb. senior Chet Beckmann was recognized earlier this year for scoring his 1,000th career point during his high school basketball career. The 6-0 senior quard finished his career with 1,096 points, including 289 this past season. He was a fouryear starter for the Bees. Beckmann (second from left) is pictured with head coách Mark Luger and Beckmann's parents, Robbin and Chad Beck-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

RC Gymnastics & Cheer Session 4 Begins Sunday

River City Gymnastics and Cheer now open and accepting reg istrations for Session 4.

Classes begin March 17 and run for 8 weeks. Registration forms are available on the River City website at www.yanktonrivercitygymnastics.com. or call Justin at 605-661-4971.

Fox Run Golf Meetings Coming Up

Fox Run Golf Course has announced its upcoming meetings for its summer golf leagues. Each meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Fox Run clubhouse.

The meeting for all men's leagues will be held on Thursday, March 14. The senior league meeting will be held on Tuesday, April

For more information, contact Fox Run Golf Course at 605-668-

Tri-Star Hoops Contest April 6

The Tri-Star Basketball Contest will be held Saturday, April 6 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena on the Mount Marty College campus in Yankton.

The contest will consist of three skills: Dribbling, passing and shooting. Boys and girls ages 8-13 will compete in separate age

Awards will be presented for the first 3rd place winners in each

For more information, contact Glenn Mannes with the Yankton Morning Optimist Club by email at glenn@mannesarchitects.com or by phone at 660-9465.

Umpires Meeting March 17

VERMILLION — There will be a certification meeting for base-ball umpires on Sunday, March 17 at the Vermillion High School

Start time is 2 p.m. For more information, contact John Wieseler

U-12 Boys' Club Soccer Parents Meeting Sunday

There will be a parents meeting for any parents who have a U-12 boy who would like to play club soccer this coming year. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 17, at 6 p.m., at the Summit Activities Center meeting room.

Dates of tournaments and other items will be discussed. For more information, contact Deb Lillie at 661-1296.

We Want To Hear From You

If you have any sports-related story ideas, upcoming events or comments, feel free to contact us at sports@yankton.net or by mail at 319 Walnut, Yankton,

Be sure to include all pertinent information, including your name, phone num-

SCOREBOARD

L.A. Lakers

34 32 22 43

22 43

Tuesday's Games Cleveland 95, Washington 90

Charlotte 100, Boston 74

L.A. Lakers 106, Orlando 97 Brooklyn 108, New Orleans 98 Miami 98, Atlanta 81

Minnesota 107, San Antonio 83 Dallas 115, Milwaukee 108

Memphis 102, Portland 97 ednesday's Games Miami 98, Philadelphia 94

Indiana 107, Minnesota 91

Boston 112, Toronto 88 Atlanta 96, L.A. Lakers 92 Houston 111, Phoenix 81

hursday's Games Dallas at San Antonio, 7 p.m.

riday's Games Charlotte at Toronto, 6 p.m.

New York at Portland, 9:30 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 6 p.m.

New Orleans at Washington, 6 p.m.

Phoenix at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Houston, 7 p.m.

Orlando at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.

Cleveland at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Miami at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.

Memphis at Denver, 8 p.m. Chicago at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

AUTO RACING

Washington 106, Milwaukee 93

Oklahoma City 110, Utah 87 Chicago at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Detroit at Golden State, 10:30 p.m. Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m. New York at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

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BOWLING

YANKTON BOWL

SPARETIME HIGH TEAM GAME: First Dakota 840 HIGH TEAM SERIES: First Dakota 2444 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Stacy Barta

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Stacy Barta 743, Sue Murphy 566, Candy Olson 556, Barb

743, Sue Murphy 3050, Candry Oison 350, Barb Dooley 540 STANDINGS: Huether's Seamless Gutters 4-0, Truxedo 3.5-0.5, Lewis & Clark Marina 3-1, First Dakota 3-1, Marshmellows 3-1, Harding Glass 1-3, Glass Cutters 1-3, First National SC 1-3, Vogt Cleaners 0.5-3.5
HIGHLIGHTS: Regan Luken 5-7
MONDAY MIXED
HIGH TEAM GAME: Bob's Hobby Supply

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Ten Pins 1281 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Marvin Guth-miller 240, Kelly Mernin 231, Willis Gramkow 229 (errorless), Betty Adam 198, Elaine List 197, Sharon Scissons 169

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Kelly Mernin 636, Willis Gramkow 569, Marvin Guthmiller 554, Elaine List 502, Betty Adam 479, Lonnie Remington 472 STANDINGS: Ten Pins 26-14. R&D Loeck-

ers 25.5-14.5, Misfits 23-17, Country Bumpkins 22.5-17.5, Pinheads 21-19, Bob's Hobby Sup-ply 20-20, RTBN 19-21, Alley Kats 18-22, TCB ---HIGHLIGHTS: Romain Loecker - errorless

224; Elmer Misar 3-10; Lonnie Remington 2-7; Cindy Somer 5-6-10, 4-7-10 MOONSHINERS HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Kevin Cole 186,

Jerry Byrkeland 185, Wendy Wiebelhaus 171, Carol Myers 167

HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Randy Gross 498, Elaine Lane 447 STANDINGS: Quizno's 45-30, FECC-L&S 43-32, 2 Kevins & Girl 42-33, Steamway 41-34, JB Auto 38-37
HIHGLIGHTS: Bob Wieseler 5-10, 5-7, 3-67-10

HIHGLIGHTS: Bob Wieseler 5-10, 5-7, 3-6F

BASKETBALL

YANKTON PARKS & REC

MEN'S JUST FOR FUN TOURN. CHAMPIONSHIP: CorTrust 60, Team Ram-

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOC. EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division W L

	New York	38	23	.623	_	
	Brooklyn	38	27	.585	2	
	Boston	35	29	.547	4 1/2	
	Toronto	25	40	.385	15	
	Philadelphia	24	40	.375	15 1/2	
Southeast Division						
		W	L	Pct	GB	
	x-Miami	49	14	.778	_	
	Atlanta	35	29	.547	14 1/2	
	Washington	21	42	.333	28	
	Orlando	18	47	.277	32	
	Charlotte	14	50	.219	35 1/2	
	Central Division					
		W	L	Pct	GB	
	Indiana	40	24	.625	_	
	Chicago	35		.556	4 1/2	
	Milwaukee	32		.508	7 1/2	
	Detroit	23		.348	18	
	Cleveland	22	42	.344	18	
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Southwest Division						
		W	L	Pct	GB	
	San Antonio	49	16	.754		
	Memphis	43		.694	4 1/2	
	Houston	35	30	.538	14	
	Dallas	30	33	.476	18	
	New Orleans	22	43	.338	27	
Northwest Division						
	Oldeberre Otte	W	L	Pct	GB	
	Oklahoma City	48 43	17 22	.738 .662	_ 5	
	Denver Utah	33		.508	5 15	
	utan Portland	29	32 34	.460	18	
	Minnesota	29	34 40	.355	24 1/2	
	IVIII II IESUIA	44.	40	.ააა	24 1/2	

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State

SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Tucson Inv.

State at Tucson, Ariz. (2 p.m.); MMC vs. Wayland Baptist at Tucson, Ariz. (6 p.m.)

Class AA Tourn. at Sioux Falls; S.D. State Class A Tourn. at Rapid City (Platte-Ged-des); S.D. State Class B Tourn. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley)
SOFTBALL, COLLEGE Tucson Inv.

des); S.D. State Class B Tourn. at Aberdee (Viborg-Hurley) Sunday, March 17

Talladega, Ala.
Oct. 27 — Goody's Fast Relief 500, Ridge-

1. Jimmie Johnson, 129. 2. Brad Keselowski, 124 Dale Earnhardt Jr., 119.

Mark Martin, 95. 7. Matt Kenseth, 93.

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

x-non-points race Feb. 16 — x-The Sprint Unlimited (Kevin Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 1 (Kevin Har-

Feb. 21 — x-Budweiser Duel 2 (Kyle Busch) Feb. 24 — Daytona 500 (Jimmie Johnson) March 3 — Subway Fresh Fit 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Carl Edwards)

March 10 - Kobalt Tools 400, Las Vegas (Matt Kenseth)
March 17 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn.

March 24 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif. April 7 — STP Gas Booster 500, Ridgeway,

April 13 — Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas April 21 — STP 400, Kansas City, Kan. April 27 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond,

May 5 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. May 11 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darton, S.C.

May 18 — x-Sprint Showdown, Concord, May 18 - x-NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race

Concord, N.C.

May 26 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C.

June 2 — Dover 400, Dover, Del.

June 9 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa. June 16 - Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn

.. June 23 — Tovota/Save Mart 350, Sonoma ı. June 29 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky. July 6 — Coke Zero 400 powered by Coca-Cola, Daytona Beach, Fla. July 14 — New Hampshire 300, Loudon,

July 28 — Crown Royal Presents The Your Hero's Name Here 400 at The Brickyard, Indi-

anapolis
Aug. 4 — Pennsylvania 400, Long Pond, Aug. 11 - Cheez-It 355 at The Glen,

Aug. 18 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn Mich. Aug. 24 - Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol,

Sept. 1 - AdvoCare 500 at Atlanta, Hamp-

Sept. 15 — GEICO 400, Joliet, III.

Sept. 22 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H.
Sept. 29 — AAA 400, Dover, Del.
Oct. 6 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas

AREA CALENDAR

Thursday, March 14 BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC vs. Val-BASEBALL, CÖLLEGE MMC vs. Valley City State at Tucson, Ariz. (DH, 11 a.m.)
BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State
Class AA Tourn. at Sloux Falls; S.D. State
Class A Tourn. at Rapid City (Platte-Geddes
vs. Clark-Willow Lake, 1 p.m. CT); S.D. State
Class B Tourn. at Aberdeen (Viborg-Hurley
vs. James Valley Christian, 6 p.m., KVHT-FM)
SCETBALL COLLEGE.

(MMC vs. Avila, 11 a.m.; MMC vs. Purdue-North Central, 1:30 p.m.)

Friday, March 15

BASEBALL, COLLEGE MMC vs. Minot

SOF IBALL, COLLEGE Tucson Inv.
(MMC vs. Baker, 1:30 p.m.; MMC vs. Dickinson State, 3:30 p.m.)

Saturday, March 16

BASKETBALL, BOYS' S.D. State
Class AA Tourn. at Sioux Falls; S.D. State
Class A Tourn. at Rapid City (Platte-Ged-

No activities scheduled

City, Kan.
Oct. 12 — Bank of America 500, Concord, Oct. 20 — Camping World RV Sales 500,

Nov. 3 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas Nov. 10 — AdvoCare 500, Avondale, Ariz. Nov. 17 - Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead,

8. Greg Biffle, 93. 9. Clint Bowyer, 89. 10. Aric Almirola, 88.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

HOUSTON ASTROS—Optioned RHP Jose snero, RHP Jarred Cosart, LHP Brett Ober-oltzer and RHP Ross Seaton to their minor league camp.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Requested un-

conditional release waivers on RHP Guillermo NEW YORK YANKEES—Optioned RHP Adam Warren, INF Corban Joseph and OF Zoilo

Almonte to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). TORONTO BLUE JAYS-Released 1B

National League
MIAMI MARLINS—Optioned RHP Chris
Hatcher to New Orleans (PCL). MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with OF Carlos Gomez on a four-year contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Optioned RHP
Vic Black, RHP Stolmy Pimentel, INF Clint
Robinson, OF Jerry Sands, RHP Hunter Strick-

land and RHP Duke Welker to Indianapolis (IL). Reassigned RHP Erik Cordier, OF Darren Ford, INF Matt Hague, INF Anderson Hernandez and RHP Jameson Taillon to their minor league

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Recalled G
Kent Bazemore and F Malcolm Thomas from

DALLAS MAVERICKS—Signed G Chris ight to a 10-day contract.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed CB Jerraud Powers and QB Drew Stanton to three-year contracts and RB Rashard Mendenhall to a one

xander on a three-year contract and S emiah Bell on a one-year contract. Released S Kerry Rhodes. RAITIMORE RAVENS—Released S ernard Pollard. Signed DL Chris Canty to a iree-year contract and RB Damien Berry and

BUFFALO BILLS-Signed LB Manny Law-CHICAGO BEARS—Released TE Kellen

Davis.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Agreed to terms with LB Quentin Groves on a two-year contract d DL Desmond Bryant.
DETROIT LIONS—Agreed to terms with RB

Reggie Bush on a four-year contract, DE Jason Jones on a three-year contract and CB Chris Houston. Signed S Glover Quin to a five-year JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Released

WR Laurent Robinson.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Signed CB Dunta
Robinson, OL Bryan Mattison, WR Donnie
Avery, QB Chase Daniel and TE Anthony

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed LB Philip Wheeler to a five-year contract. MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed LB Erin Henderson and WR Jerome Simpson.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Agreed to terms with LS Justin Drescher on a four-year contract. NEW YORK GIANTS—Named Lunda Wells assistant offensive line coach, Ryan Roeder offensive assistant and Robbie Leonard defensive

assistant. Signed PK Josh Brown.
OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed DE Jason
Hunter, LB Kaluka Maiava and DT Pat Sims.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Signed QB Bruce Gradkowski to a three-year contract and TEIFB David Johnson to a one-year contract. In TEIFB David Johnson to a one-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Traded QB Alex Smith to Kansas City for a 2013 second-round draft pick and a future draft pick. Signed DE Glenn Dorsey to a two-year contract.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed S

hon Goldson.
TENNESSEE TITANS—Agreed to terms with RB Shonn Greene and G Andy Levitre on multiyear contracts and DT Sammie Hill. WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Re-signed DE Kedric Golston. Named Malcolm Blacken di-

rector of player development.
HOCKEY

National Hockey League
NHL—Suspended Anaheim F Corey Perry
four games for elbowing Minnesota F Jason
Zucker in the head.
ANAHEIM DUCKS—Reassigned F Devante Smith-Pelly to Norfolk (AHL).

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Recalled D

Cody Goloubef on an emergency basis from Springfield (AHL).

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Recalled F Jonathan Rheault from San Antonio (AHL) MINNESOTA WILD—Signed D Brett Clark to a one-year contract. Activated G Darcy Kuem-per from injured reserve and reassigned him to

Houston (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Reassigned LW Harry Young from Albany (AHL) to Kalamazoo (ECHL). Signed LW Reid Boucher.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Recalled F

David Ullstrom on loan from Bridgeport (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS—Recalled F Patrice Cormier from St. John's (AHL). COLLEGE
AUBURN—Named James Armstrong assis

tant soccer coach.

AUSTIN PEAY—Announced the resignation of linebackers coach and recruiting co Gary Shephard.
GEORGIA SOUTHERN—Named Clifford

Yoshida defensive line coach. IOWA STATE—Signed wrestling coach OHIO—Named James Ward cornerbacks

SAN JOSE STATE—Fired men's basketball

HOCKEY STANDOUTS



The Yankton Morning Optimist Club conducted its annual Tri-Star Hockey Skills Competition on March 2 at Alcoa Ice Arena. Pictured are the winners from each age group, along with Optimist Club president John Lillevold, far left: (front, L-R) Dawson Vellek, 1st age 7-9; Cole Pedersen, 2nd 7-9; Alexander Nockels, 3rd 7-9; (back) Oakley Palmer, 1st 12-13; Caid Koletzky, 2nd 12-13; Jaxon Erickson, 3rd 12-13; Keith Schenekl, 1st 11-12; Ryan Eichacker, 2nd 11-12 and Brody Burgeson, 3rd 11-12.

Big 12

From Page 9

K-State coach Bruce Weber theorized that the league got a bum rap for failing to rack up impressive wins in nonconference play. When Big 12 play started in January, only his Wildcats and the Jayhawks were in the Top 25. For most of the season, Kansas was the only conference team in

the top 20. "Our conference started a little slow. That's where you build up your RPI and you get that national recognition," Weber said. "But if you really study it, look at Oklahoma State, how young they are. They were pretty good in nonconference but not quite where people said, 'Man, they're a top 10 team.' But now, they are

capable of making a run. "I think Oklahoma is very good. Iowa State, I don't know if anyone wants to play them. Obviously, Kansas is one of the best

teams in the country." The Big 12 missed out on some of the spotlight when Kansas suffered its first threegame losing streak in eight years just as it was getting into the conversation as a possible No. 1 team. Instead, the conference has been largely overshadowed, even as Kansas Štate won 10 of its final 12 games and Oklahoma State

"The Big 12's a terrific league. A lot of times, the bar is set early and then regardless of what happens, it just kind of plays that way throughout the year," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "But I think the Big 12's turned out to be a much stronger, deeper conference than what maybe people were talking about earlv.'

won 11 of 13.

While the Big Ten has had a cluster of teams near the top of the rankings and the ACC has had a high-profile struggle between Miami and Duke, the Big 12 title ended up being won in reverse. Oklahoma State lost its

pionship by losing at Iowa State in the final week of the regular season, and Kansas State and Kansas both missed chances to win the title outright by losing their last games. That could be a sign that

chance to contend for the cham-

there are no truly elite teams in the conference, or that the depth of the Big 12 has been better than advertised. 'Our league's proved to be wide open," Texas coach Rick

Barnes said. "There's people

beating people all year." After seemingly showing signs of improvement down the stretch, the real test for the Big 12 lies ahead next week for whichever teams get picked on Selection Sunday.

"People don't always see, 'Hey, these guys have improved. They're really good,"' Weber said. "And so, I really believe we can do some damage as a league in the tournament.

AP Sports Writer Stephen Hawkins contributed to this report from Waco, Texas.

current edition including

archived issues of the past

Coyotes

From Page 9

automatic qualifiers and 33 at-large bids, will be announced late next Monday night, following the NCAA Tournament selections. The first

round would played March 20-22. IUPUI (20-11) earned the automatic berth from the Summit League by virtue of finishing second in the regular season standings. The Jaguars will make their first-ever Division I post-season appearance.

That leaves the Coyotes on the "bubble" for an at-large selection which they earned last year thanks to a 22-7 record and a sub-100 RPI (87) under former coach Ryun Williams. USD's latest RPI this season is 193. Two years ago, the program competed in the 16-team WBI,

and does not require a bidding process. The teams are chosen based on RPI, strength of schedule, quality wins and "end of season The USD athletic department submitted a host bid to the WNIT, but that does not ensure an invita-

which utilizes an East-West format

director David Herbster. 'Right now you have to wait and see if you get selected," Herbster said Wednesday. "Bids are not a guarantee that you'll make the tournament, but we've done every-

tion, according to interim athletic

thing we can do right now, just

have to wait and see.' The Coyotes helped themselves by winning five of their final six games, including a pair of wins at the Summit League Tournament in their first year of eligibility.

"We're hoping that they'll consider us, and they'll look at the way we competed and finished the season strong," Amy Williams said.
Doing so flew in the face of pre-

season expectations thrown at the Coyotes under a new coach. Picked to finish sixth in the Summit under Williams, who was hired in June 2012, USD suddenly found itself down to 10 active players because of season-ending injuries to

five players. Å 6-Ž start to the Summit League season showed that Williams was finding a way to get Herbster said.

That's the funny thing about hiring coaches, you don't know how right or wrong you are until a few years down the road," he said. You don't know how it'll turn out.

we lost and all the injuries they had, it really makes you feel good about the hire." When it came time to taking the team to its first-ever Summit League Tournament, Williams and the Coyotes were faced with

With this team, knowing what

fans decked out in blue and yellow. Tuesday's women's championship game boasted an attendance of 6,153, the highest ever for a women's session in league history.
"That was an unbelievable tour-

nament atmosphere. For a mid-

that's a big-time Division I atmosphere," Herbster said. "You see a lot of those conference finals that are played at a neutral site, and you're hoping for a half-full arena, not a sold-out arena like this one

Williams joked about having trouble calling timeouts on Tuesday because of the noise, but said she was glad her players got to experience that environment. "What an amazing stage for our kids to be on," she said. "It shows

has for women's basketball; they value it. "We were honored to be part of something that big.'

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck



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